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For CHINA, JAPAN, Etc.
1917 Fifty-Fifth Annual Issue.
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WEEK DAYS	EVERY 15 MINUTES
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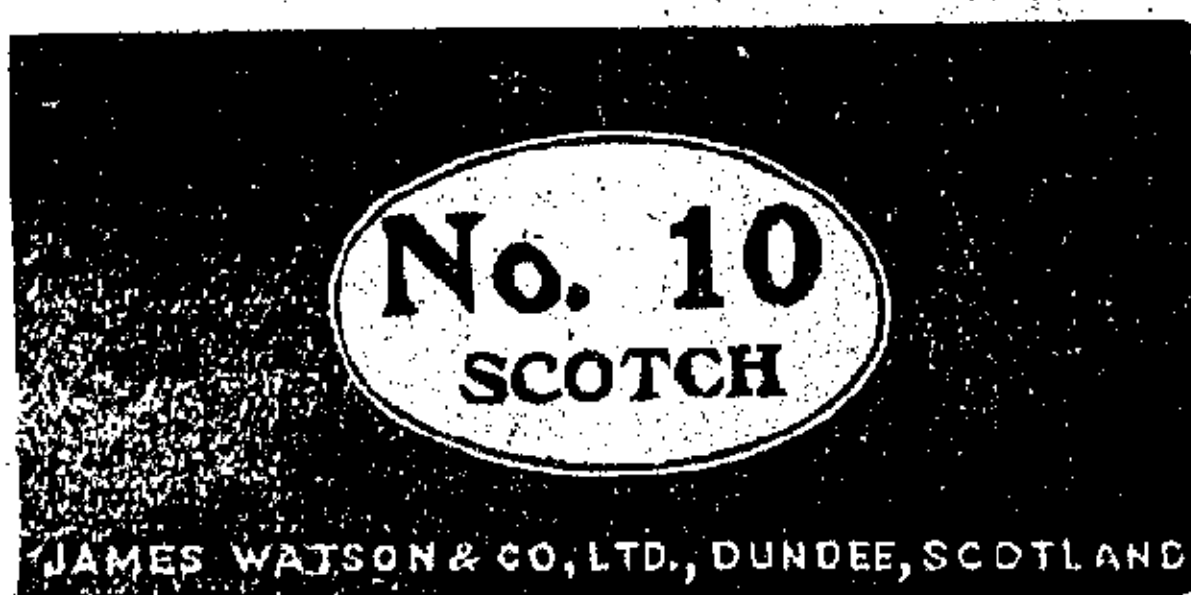
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SOUTH CHINA'S TRADE
IN 1916.

THE MARITIME CUSTOMS
REPORTS

KOWLOON.

The value of trade passing through the Kowloon district by junk and rail during 1916 was HK. Tls. 47,043,483, a decrease of 14 million taels despite an increase of nearly a million taels in the cargo carried by rail. The revenue derived from junk-borne cargo amounted to Tls. 1,027,710, a decrease as compared with 1915 of Tls. 60,000. Opium duty and *likin* ceased entirely and there were substantial decreases in the collection from duty, *likin* and *chingfei* inwards. From rail-borne cargo the revenue was Tls. 55,162, representing an increase of nearly Tls. 15,000 over the 1915 collection, transport by rail showing, on the whole, steady growth since the inception of the line in 1911.

LAPPA.

As a result of provincial civil war and piracy the total value of trade in the Lappa district fell by over 21 million taels to Tls. 14,302,255. Owing to the increase in prices the actual decrease in the bulk of the trade is considerably more than the figures would indicate. This shrinkage was reflected in turn in the decreased revenue of Tls. 126,500, which was the lowest on record since the Maritime Customs assumed control of the port in 1857. Foreign goods imported showed a falling off of about a million and half taels to Tls. 10,335,188. Chinese goods exported were reduced by nearly 11 millions and stood at Tls. 3,548,639.

KONGMOON.

Though Kongmoon suffered in a like respect business was most satisfactory. The revenue collection of Tls. 227,325 was the best on record. The net value of the trade coming under the cognizance of the Maritime Customs amounted to Tls. 8,292,732, an increase of over 31 millions over the figures of the preceding year. Revenue saw an increase of Tls. 92,000, despite the absence of opium and *likin*, which have completely disappeared. Chinese goods exported increased by nearly half a million taels, and foreign goods imported went up by over three millions.

SAMSHUI.

Samshui still had the effects of the inundations of the previous two years to recover from and before this could be effected the province was plunged into disorder and civil war. Nevertheless, the net trade totalled about 7.72 millions, a result which, coming after two successive years of flood, clearly demonstrated the vitality of the region. There was only a decrease of four per cent. in the collection of revenue, which stood at Tls. 203,871. The import of foreign goods improved by Tls. 900,000 and stood at Tls. 4,471,770. This includes about Tls. 1,100,000, representing unusually large importations of rice to replenish depleted stocks. The exports of Chinese goods rose by nearly half a million taels and stood at the gratifying figure of over Tls. 2,560,000.

WUCHOW.

Wuchow's trade increased by over two million taels, due almost entirely to exports. Foreign goods decreased by over a million taels and stood at Tls. 8,076,572 in spite of the enhanced prices of all commodities. The export of cattle nearly doubled itself. The export of antimony rose from 10,392 to 146,721 piculs and regulus from 607 to 7,012 piculs. The revenue collected showed a decline of Tls. 92,044.

JAPANESE COAL POSITION
HIGHER PRICES AS WINTER
APPROACHES.

In the coal trade the prospect is that another historical boom is anticipated after this month, because the stock of coal at depots in various parts of the country is fast running out (says the *Japan Advertiser*).

Buyers are hurrying up their purchases at present on account of their anticipation of another autumn boom. Because they were thrown into a difficult position last spring owing to the hesitancy at the speedy rise in prices buyers are now anxious in their operations and every rise in price is speedily acquiesced in by them.

This attitude of buyers has already had its influence on the visible stock and in its turn affected the trend of the trade. In Kyushu, indeed, abnormally high freightage has proved a check to the running out of the stock, but in Hokkaido and Tokio no such check are in evidence and the stock is steadily reduced quite contrary to the usual trend in summer.

According to a recent census the stock at the Sumidagawa depot was 13,700 tons against 14,300 tons in June. In Hokkaido the reduction has been more rapid. At the end of June the stock was 52,029 tons against 106,300 tons at the close of May. At Wakamatsu and Moji at the end of July there were 205,700 tons against 301,550 tons at the end of June.

Judging from the rate of working at different mines the replenishment of the visible stock cannot be easy. The import of mining machines is difficult and if owners' orders are accepted by foreign machine men the arrival of the ordered machines is delayed. According to a certain mine owner the acquisition of machines is now almost hopeless. Labour is also getting scarcer every month, as industrial booms have called labour away to other safer and more paying lines. In spite of their intense efforts at coping with the increase in demand mine owners have been able in the first half of the present year only to increase 30 per cent. of the production in Hokkaido and 10 per cent. in the Kyushu and Fukuoka fields.

In the meantime demand for fuel has increased apace. Not only industrial workers but carrying organs have consumed more coal and in the first half of the present year their demand showed an increase of 30 per cent. over last year. The export of coal has declined somewhat because of the foreign demand, because in Hawaii, British India, and the South Pacific a coal famine is threatening. Those foreign points will pay whatever price is quoted by suppliers.

COMPANY MEETING.

HONGKONG STEEL FOUNDRY
CO., LTD.

The 7th ordinary general meeting of the above was held at the office of the General Managers (Gordon & Co.) yesterday. Mr. A. G. Gordon presided, and those also present were: Messrs. F. Maitland, T. F. Hough, E. J. Grist, H. R. B. Hancock, A. H. P. Jackson, P. Tester, W. Logan, E. M. Raymond, G. P. Lambert, P. C. Potts, E. E. Ellis, A. K. Henderson, M. W. Mark, and Yuen Cheng, with Mr. J. F. Fisher (Secretary).

After the Secretary had read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some time I will follow the usual course and, with your permission, take them as read. Orders during the year under review have been plentiful, and to meet the growing demand for a heavier class of work offered, we have arranged to begin, without delay, to lay down two more sets of patent radio furnaces; and contemplate, later, building two extra furnaces, which will enable us to accept urgent orders for work which cannot be executed without considerable delay and expense to our clients. This will also enable the Company to make soft ingot steel for forging purposes to take the place of home orders which cannot be fulfilled, owing to the difficulties of transport and Government restriction against the export of steel materials leaving British ports. If this state of affairs continues, we may still increase our output by making further additions to the plant, to meet the urgent demand for soft ingot steel. The encouragement given to this Company to further its endeavours to supply the wants of its present constituents has caused our managers, with the sanction of shareholders, to increase its capital to \$1,000,000. A scheme is already in hand for its reconstruction under a Board of Directors, which will be fully explained to the public later, when it is hoped the extra capital will be forthcoming to enable the Company to proceed with an installation to meet all present day requirements. As for China, and its awakening, about which so much has been written, we feel that when the war is over things will begin to move. Even during the last three years, while Europe has been locked in a death struggle, China has not remained stationary. A survey is in progress for a line which will certainly develop portions of the country through which flows the West River, and give a stimulus to trade in Kwang Si, where it is known there are deposits of Coal and Iron, as well as of Tin and Antimony. I am not, therefore, pessimistic as to the future of Kwangsi or Kwangtung if the authorities will only encourage local enterprise. Recent events have shown that, in Canton, there is a desire to stimulate the development of mineral enterprises in the Province, and I feel the day is not far distant when Coal and Iron will be shipped to Hongkong in large quantities. We have been inundated with offers to supply us with Iron Ore and other Minerals. To give you some idea of those offers, I will read you one amongst them.

"A. G. GORDON, Esq.,
DEAR SIR,—At your request we beg to inform you that, at last, we have got permission from the Chinese Government to reopen the Iron Mine in Kwangsi Province. This Iron Mine occupies an area of (40) forty square miles, and at present there are about 300 labourers at work.

"The output of Iron Ore is about 300 piculs daily. If more labourers are engaged for the work we can supply you monthly, under contract, nine or ten thousand piculs. In case of insufficient output, according to contract of Ore to be delivered to the Company, we will, of course, be responsible for any loss incurred thereby, and we are quite ready to furnish a guarantee if required."

"We have had samples tested and analysed and find them very rich in Manganese; in fact everything is very satisfactory, and indicates a great future for this Company. However, as we are working on the process of melting down Scrap Steel with other mixtures added, the supply of Iron Ore does not affect our present crucible installation; it only affects the progress mentioned in my remarks at the last general meeting, namely, 'Until such time as the Foundry Department can be made to run

in conjunction with the mills for producing Steel Material from Ingots, which keep the furnaces running night and day, crucible furnaces are more economical."

An article in one of the local papers some time ago dealt with the acquisition of manufacture in Hongkong of Munitions of War, and said that much effective help could doubtless be given to the cause of the Allies if arrangements were made for such manufacture here. The article stated that persons in important positions had said that no means existed in Hongkong for the manufacture of steel shells, but the fact is apparently not known to those persons that there does exist, and did exist at that time, a foundry in the Colony capable of turning out precisely what was required; and doubtless it will interest the patriotic Hongkong public to know that this Company was asked by the Government on behalf of Russia if its resources could be made available for the supply of munitions of war, and a reply was sent to the effect that its resources were such that at the time three tons in cast steel shells or ingots for making shells could be supplied each day, and that if required additional plant could be procured in four or five months, to supply forty-five tons a day guaranteed. Therefore, gentlemen, you will see that this Company, on behalf of the Colony, offered to do its best in the common cause. (Applause.) Speaking from a very long experience of this Colony's progress and the position it holds to-day in the commercial world, owing to its great shipping facilities and advantages for shipbuilding and other industries, requiring the supply of iron and steel material, and which is of paramount importance to the future interests of this port, it would be disastrous to allow what has already proved to be such an unqualified success to fall at this stage for want of capital, and fall into the hands of other nationals to reap the benefit of enterprise which has clearly proved the necessity for such an undertaking. (Applause.)

The chairman said in Mr. Anton's speech at the launching of the two vessels on Saturday, 4th instant, at Kowloon Docks, sounded the right note in its most telling atmosphere, i.e., amongst the shipping and engineering capitalists and experts of Hongkong and surrounding districts. He said: "The shipbuilding yards here had very many advantages over the shipbuilding yards at home, but they had one disability, and that was they had to get the Steel out from home, also ship plates and Boiler-Plates. He could see the possibility of having their own Steel Works in Hongkong soon. They had iron ore very near here, with lots of coal in Kwangtung, and it only needs a certain amount of enterprise to have these steel works established."

"We have iron ore very near here," says Mr. Anton. I have already stated that iron ore is to be obtained in the neighbouring provinces of China, but if the iron mine near here is good why do the owners not work it themselves? They are capitalists, and with pig-iron at its present value it seems strange that no effort has been made to develop such a wonderful "find," and if so rich in manganese, etc., as it is stated to be, is it not reasonable to suppose it would have been taken in hand years ago to demonstrate to the public the quality of its ore? The owners must have their doubts about its financial success. The ore is offered for sale with all its alluring qualities, but they go no further. If this mine has any commercial value, and can produce pig iron up to necessary specified standard, I have no doubt that the Hongkong Steel Foundry Company alone could install a plant for milling steel material up to, say, 3,000 tons per month. If those who "prattle" about having Hongkong's interests at heart, will be "up and doing" instead of (may I use the word?) "bluffing," business might result. I have on the table estimates only arrived a short time ago giving us details of the latest method in steel production from the ore to the time it is used for building purposes. We are informed it would not pay to erect an installation below one hundred tons per day—3,000 tons per month—therefore we have the cost of such an installation with rolling mills and foundry complete, and the estimate cost of such laid down in Hongkong. So you see we have not been asleep in this matter. And now, gentlemen, what more is wanted? I am confident that if we had the necessary capital subscribed there would be little (if any) difficulty in getting into communication with the proper authorities, as from information

on hand they seem to be only too anxious to deal direct with responsible bodies instead of middlemen, who are so anxious to squeeze out blood before life begins. As a result of our endeavours we learn that new mining laws have at last been drafted which are likely to prove acceptable to the Treaty Powers and at the same time to prove of immense benefit to China. We can only hope that the Cabinet changes in Peking will not result in the new drafts being pigeon-holed and forgotten.

DEPRECIATION.
Before I close I should like to say a few words on the question of depreciation. We have for some years past allowed 10 per cent. and at same time the upkeep, which is a very heavy item, has been charged to the working account. The furnaces to-day, with the constant renewals, are in as good a condition as when installed; nevertheless, it would be hopeless to expect our business to be on a safe and sound basis if no depreciation were provided. The Shareholders might be more pleased with the accounts, but our assets would be standing at a fictitious figure. Therefore, it is clear that, if provision be not made for depreciation each year, the time will come when new capital must be introduced into the business to enable the assets to be acquired for continuance on more modern methods.

PATENT PROCESS.
No depreciation has been allowed in this item, and considering the value of same was originally purchased for \$5,000.00 and taken over on formation of the Company for £2,000.00, therefore standing at that figure it represents an asset well within its value. We are only working on the fringe as it were of the complete process, which enables the Company, amongst other things, to manufacture tool steel, razor steel, locomotive wheels and tyres, crossings, points and chairs, axles and chair links, car wheels, propeller blades, ship screw frames, hydraulic cylinders, etc., and anything and everything required in the steel casting line.

Finally, gentlemen, I have risked my all in this venture against advice to the contrary, knowing for many years that sooner or later the growing demand for steel material (long before the war) justified the experiment, and no one knows better than I do the vicissitudes of good and bad fortune through being determined to fight against all difficulties. I am, therefore, anxious to see the consummation of my life's work, i.e., that Hongkong, which has been my home for over 40 years, and kept the position she rightly holds to-day, as being one of the most progressive, up-to-date, of the British Empire. (Applause.) I can think of nothing more that would be interesting to Shareholders, but if there are any questions I shall be pleased to answer them, before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts.

There were no questions, and the CHAIRMAN then moved the adoption of the report and accounts.
Mr. F. MAITLAND.—I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts, as presented. It is pleasing to at last arrive at the dividend paying state, and I hope shareholders will receive an annual return in future. Certainly, our General Managers have had a hard struggle, and all shareholders should congratulate them on the results of the past two years working which show a net revenue of no less than \$23,952.37, or 50 per cent. on our capital. The Company has suffered in the past, and is still retarded from lack of capital. The General Managers have consequently had to utilize profits to pay for improvements and enlargements, and in holding bigger stocks for current work. And yet it is impossible for them to entertain but a proportion of the orders submitted. With an increase of capital it appears evident that the success of the company is assured. With these few remarks I have pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts.

The proposition was then put to the meeting and was carried unanimously.
Mr. HOUCH then said:—The clear statement of facts we have just heard read, is, to my mind, conclusive that something should be done, and it would seem that the enterprise is such a good one that it should appeal to the investing Hongkong public, not only as a good investment but as a sound, patriotic movement, and I should be glad to see the matter brought fully to the notice of the public, and would suggest that the necessary measures be adopted to do so.
The CHAIRMAN.—I am greatly obliged to Mr. Hough for the suggestion, and think that there are many Chinese gentlemen who are only waiting a lead from the foreign community to interest themselves in this matter.
Mr. HOUCH.—I would propose the following, that an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders be convened for an early day, to which the public be invited to be present, when the matter will be fully considered and a list opened for signature of those gentlemen who are willing to take shares.
Mr. JACKSON seconded, and this resolution was unanimously carried.
On the proposition of Mr. HENDERSON, seconded by Mr. HANCOCK, Mr. C. Bernard Brown was re-appointed auditor to the Company.
This was all the business, and the CHAIRMAN announced that dividend warrants were now ready and could be had on application.

THE CAINE ROAD DISASTER

JURY'S DECISION.

The hearing was concluded at the Hongkong Magistracy yesterday, by Mr. J. R. Wood, of the enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of a female victim of the Caine Road disaster of July 16th, when the servants' quarters of Nos. 10 and 12, Caine Road were demolished, as the result of the retaining wall of St. Joseph's College playground collapsing, six deaths resulting therefrom.

Mr. G. H. Wakeman (Crown Solicitor) was present on behalf of the Crown, Mr. F. B. L. Bowley watched the case on behalf of Messrs. Leigh & Orange, Mr. D. V. Stevenson appeared for the authorities of St. Joseph's College, and Mr. Lo represented the occupiers of No. 12, Caine Road.

Mr. Leask (of Messrs. Leigh & Orange) was recalled, and, replying to the Coroner, said he had visited the scene of the collapse that morning and had examined the foundations of the retaining wall. He was satisfied with the foundations and found them unharmed. It was impossible to measure the width of the base.

A tie-rod in the wall was put in connection with some work on the wall which he thought, had to be done over again.

He did not think the wall was wider half-way up than it was at the base, but it was not possible to say until the bottom of the wall had been reached. The wall had a concrete foundation, and when it was built he thought there was already a wall standing inside it, for a certain height. Neither the wall outside, nor inside, he thought, were disturbed when the foundations for the retaining wall were made. The foundations were taken down to clay and boulders. He would not have formed the opinion, as did Mr. Little, that a stream, or under-surface water, weakened the lower wall and thus caused the collapse of the top wall; there was nothing to show that this had happened. His opinion was still that the collapse was caused by water soaking through the uncovered portion of the playground, where there were many cracks.

By Mr. Stevenson—He personally inspected the work of laying the foundations of the retaining wall on several occasions, but everyone in the firm had a hand in it.

By Mr. Bowley—The plan (produced), made by Mr. Little did not accurately represent the wall as he had seen it that day. The plan showed the foundations to be 4 feet 6 ins., but as far as he was able to measure it this morning he made it 5 feet 6 inches. That was not the foundation level. The foundations of the retaining wall were now exposed in a distorted condition, they had moved forward with the back wall, as the result of the back wall also being pushed forward.

He certainly did not agree with Mr. Little that the foundations of the wall were taken down to only brown and black earth; they were on "the solid." The new retaining wall, the one which had collapsed, had been built up against the face of the old wall, and, as a civil engineer, he considered that to be good construction. It would, to a certain extent, take the weight off the new wall.

In his opinion the whole of the filling was quite unnecessary for draining purposes.

He had never heard of a retaining wall in the Colony being built of square stones; he had never seen a better wall in the Colony than the one which had come down.

He did not agree with Mr. Little, after the examination of the wall he had made that morning, that the work had been "scamped." Masons who were pulling down what was left of the wall were having a very difficult job.

Mr. A. W. Bird was also recalled. He said that he had visited the scene of the collapse that morning and had inspected the foundations of the upper retaining wall. They were on black earth and boulders, which was quite a sound foundation, with sufficient excavation. It was impossible to say now what the extent of the excavation was. He did not think the wall was wider half-way up than at the base. In his opinion the wall was a good, average wall, and the water must have come down through the playground surface.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE PURCHASE OF "LYSHOLT."

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council will be held at 2.30 p.m. to-day.

The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., will ask the following questions:—

(1)—With reference to the Answer given to my first question at the last meeting of the Council.

(i) Is it the fact that 337 water-closets now discharge over the Praya East foreshore, and

(ii) Cannot some steps be taken to remedy the nuisance arising from such discharge, as temporary measures pending the commencement of the work on the proposed reclamation?

(iii) When is such proposed reclamation likely to be commenced?

(2)—With reference to the Vote taken at the last meeting of the Council for the purchase of "Lysholt" for Government Quarters.

(i) Is it not the usual practice to get an officer in the Government Civil Service to bid on behalf of the Government in cases where the Government desires to acquire property?

(ii) Was there any special reason for secrecy on the part of the Government in the present instance?

(iii) Did not such secrecy result in the Government having to pay a bigger price for the property than it would otherwise have done?

The orders of the day, are as follow:—

Second reading of the Bill intituled An Ordinance to make provision with respect to military service and to provide for the establishment maintenance and control of a local defence corps.

Second reading of the Bill intituled An Ordinance to amend the Special Police Reserve Ordinance, 1914, and to remove doubts as to the effects of proclamations made under section 10 of the said Ordinance.

* Will not be proceeded with at this meeting.

TYPHOON WARNING.

The following telegram has been received by the American Consul-General, Hongkong, from the Manila Observatory:—

4.30 p.m. August 15th.

Typhoon in about 127 degrees Long. E. and 16 degrees Lat. N. direction unknown.

By Mr. Bowley—Retaining walls were not usually built of square stones; they were roughly square. It was not usual to build retaining walls of nice, square, symmetrical stones. It was too expensive; but sometimes the P.W.D. did this because they had their own nice quarries. (Laughter.)

Mr. Wright was also recalled. He said he had inspected the foundations of the retaining wall that morning, and he was satisfied that they were sound when they were put in. He was still of the opinion that the wall was a well-constructed wall. In his opinion the collapse was not caused by under-surface water.

In the course of his summing up, Mr. J. R. Wood explained that the fact that that enquiry had been curtailed by holding it for one dead person only, whereas six people were killed, did not mean that there was any lack of feeling for the bereaved persons. Also, he would like to mention the great work done by members of the Hongkong police force in rescuing the living and recovering the dead from the debris. The facts of the case had been brought out in great detail, and apart from finding the cause of death, the jury also had to find whether any professional negligence could be attributed either to Mr. Little or to Mr. Leask. He thought it had been made clear that the collapse was brought about by the water percolating through the cracks in the uncovered portion of the playground. Mr. Little must carry the responsibility of the fact that he carried on the work of extension without satisfying himself as to the stability of the wall, and Mr. Leask must take the responsibility for the construction of the wall. If they found that the negligence of either contributed to the collapse, the jury would have to find

gross negligence, which would amount to a charge of criminal negligence, for architects were professional men.

The jury retired to consider their verdict, and, after an absence of about a quarter of an hour they returned the following verdict—We are agreed that the death of the deceased was caused by asphyxiation, due to the collapse of a wall, and that that collapse was brought about by abnormal rainfall. We attach no blame either to the builders of the wall, or the architect who was supervising the work at the time of the collapse.

On behalf of St. Joseph's College, Mr. Stevenson expressed sympathy with the bereaved families.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY HUNGRY.

Because he was hungry, an elderly Chinese stole a brass ink-pot from a fellow countryman's pocket, with the idea of selling it and expending the proceeds for the purpose of providing himself with a square meal.

Unfortunately, for the hungry man, the owner of the brass ink-pot saw what was happening in the shop window at which he was looking, and he had the man arrested.

Mr. Dyer Ball sentenced the thief to six weeks' hard labour.

BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.

When a Chinese was found by a detective proceeding along Tung Wah Lane in the small hours, with three lengths of gas tubing in his possession, he could give no satisfactory explanation, and was arrested. When the man was charged before Mr. Dyer Ball, Mr. J. Borthwick, Assistant Superintendent of the Hongkong Gas Company, said the tubing was the property of the company.

Defendant alleged that the tubing was given him to carry by another man, and that when the detective came up this man ran away.

The Magistrate thought there was some doubt in the case, and the defendant was discharged.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER.

When a Chinese was charged before Mr. Wood with trespassing in the lines of the 74th Punjab, Inspector Gordon said he knew nothing about the man beyond the fact that he would be the witness in another case, when another Chinese would be charged with stealing a timepiece from the Kowloon Mosque. However, the man charged with the theft of the clock alleged that it was given to him to pawn by the very man who was found in the Punjab's lines. The two men had in their possession a number of pawn tickets, for European boots, handbags, etc. They also had other property in their possession.

The man who was found in the Punjab's lines was fined \$20, or, in default, a month's hard labour, and the man who was charged with stealing the clock was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

WOMEN AND OPIUM.

When a Chinese woman was charged with being in possession of 36 taels of opium, Inspector Wildin said that the drug was concealed in a specially prepared waistcoat, which contained rows of pocket, and each pocket concealed a tael tin. The waistcoat was suspended from the neck.

Defendant endeavoured to get away with the excuse that she was given the drug by another person, but Mr. Wood sentenced her to three months' hard labour.

Another woman, who, when coming ashore with the first defendant, was found to have sixteen taels of opium concealed in her girdle, was sentenced to four months' hard labour.

A third woman, who was found in possession of 18 taels of opium, at Hungahom, was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

ARMED ROBBERY.

A married woman, living at an unnumbered house at Ma Fu Tsai village, has reported to the police that about midnight on the 11th inst. some person forced open the door of her dwelling and five men entered. Two were armed with daggers, and two carried lighted bamboo poles. While two men ransacked the humble dwelling, the other men stood guard over the woman and threatened to stab her to death if she endeavoured to raise an alarm. The men got away with clothing and jewellery to the value of \$44.60.

SMOKING NEAR LOADED SHELLS.

At a Northern Police Court, recently, two employees at a national shell-filling factory recently visited by the King and Queen were sent to prison for the maximum period of six months. One was found smoking a pipe and the other a cigarette in the danger zone, and near to a store in which there were thousands of loaded shells. The Chairman said the Bench considered these the worst cases they had ever had before them, and to mark their sense of the offence they inflicted the maximum term. They were determined to stop this smoking in the factory.

CHINESE NEWS.

THE SITUATION IN HUNNAN.

The Tschun of Hunnan has sent telegrams to Canton describing the unsatisfactory condition of the Province and pointing out the probable effect the unrest with have on all the South-West Provinces.

It is understood that Dr. Sun Yat-sun, Li Lich-kwan and others have wired to General Luk Wing-ting, and consulted with Chan Ping-kwan, advocating the dispatch of troops to Hunnan to assist the Tschun, who has only two divisions to oppose the coming Northern troops.

The Tschun of Kwangsi has decided to send troops to Hunnan.

It was stated in Canton that ten regiments were despatched from Kwai Lin on the 17th inst. They were expected to reach Chang Sha within seven days.

The Hunnan Tschun, Tam Yin-ang, has sent a representative to Canton to borrow 2,000 new rifles with 1,000 cases of cartridges, and 20 machine-guns for the Northern expedition.

CHAN PING-KWAN'S VISIT TO KWANGSI.

General Luk Wing-ting and Tan Homing (the Kwangsi Tschun) telegraphed Chan Ping-kwan asking him to go to Kwangsi to confer on important question, and it is understood that Chan left Canton on the 13th on a gunboat with twenty men as a body-guard. He is expected to return in a week.

THE UNITY OF THE SOUTH-WEST PROVINCES.

Shum Chun-huen has wired to General Luk Wing-ting asking him to go to Canton to settle important questions relating to the unity of the South-West Provinces.

One of the Parliamentary members, Cheung Pak-lich, who brought down with him the Parliamentary seal, arrived at Canton on the 15th inst. The seal has been handed to the Parliamentary Chairman who came to Canton previously. There will be a Special Parliamentary meeting opened within 10 days.

THE FLOODS IN WUCHOW.

The floods are slowly extending in Wuchow but fortunately no damage to house property has yet to be recorded.

STORM DAMAGE AT CHEUNG CHOW.

The storm of Monday did considerable damage at Cheung Chow Island. The police report states that about six large fishing junks and from 20 to 40 sampans were smashed to pieces, damage to the extent of several thousand dollars being caused to the fishing people's boats. The missionaries' matched church, and also several other matched erections on the island were blown down. Up to the present, no loss of life has been recorded.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

COMMANDS. The D.S.P. (R.), having returned to the Colony, resumes Command. Until further orders, the undersigned will issue all Orders and continue in immediate charge of the administration of the Reserve Force.

The undersigned will attend at the D.S.P. (R.)'s office on each week days (excepting Saturday) from 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. All communications are to be addressed to, and all interviews had in the first place with, Mr. Hough.

(Sgd.) T. F. Hough, A.S.P. (R.).

15th August 1917.

COAL DIFFICULTIES IN GERMANY.

The *Kölnische Volkszeitung* publishes a statement by the Imperial Commissioner explaining the causes of Germany's coal difficulties.

The Commissioner said that, owing to the lack of trained railwaymen, the daily supply of coal in Upper Silesia had fallen to about half, that of Westphalia from 21,000 tons to 8,000. Then winter came along with prolonged consumption of coal. When the water service started again the *personnel* available for Upper Silesia was found insufficient, while the situation in Westphalia was complicated by food difficulties and labour movements. The situation had been further aggravated by the campaign against Roumania, which had necessitated the dispatch of enormous coal supplies, and by the intensified U-boat warfare, which had obliged Germany to deliver coal to neutrals who had previously been supplied by England. Not a single ton of coal left Germany without Germany's receiving an equivalent.

The Commissioner also said that military events at the front had prevented miners from returning home who otherwise would have been available.

In the coming winter there must be no luxurious consumption of coal. The supply should suffice if the people would heat only a limited number of rooms, perhaps even only one dwelling-room.

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Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTERS' AGENCY.)

BRITISH IMPROVE POSITIONS.

PORTUGUESE IN ACTION.

LONDON, August 15th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—With heavy artillery and rifle fire we repulsed an enemy attack eastward of Westhoek. We improved our positions on the right bank of the Steenbeek. The enemy twice attempted raids eastward of Laventie, but was immediately driven out by the Portuguese after sharp fighting. We repulsed raiders, estimated at three companies strong, eastward of Neuve Chapelle, despite the enemy's aggressive tactics.

Our long distance aeroplanes reached and bombed their objectives, machine gunned infantry, and brought down seven and drove down four machines. Two of ours are missing.

STRONG ALLIED ATTACKS PREPARING.

GERMAN MESSAGE.

LONDON, August 15th.

A wireless German official message says: Strong Allied attacks in the Western theatre are being prepared. We took prisoner a large number of Portuguese at Neuve Chapelle.

The French twice unsuccessfully, attacked southward of Nauray.

There has been increased artillery firing on the Aisne Front in Western Champagne, northward of Verdun. The French brought up strong forces at Verdun especially artillery. We repulsed attacks at Flirey and shot down nine aeroplanes.

VIOLENT ARTILLERY DUEL.

PARIS, August 15th.

A communiqué says:—The artillery duel has sometimes been most violent in Belgium.

Enemy raids at different points were easily repelled.

EARLIER CABLES.

BRITISH FRONT.

MUTUAL RAIDS.

LONDON, August 14th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We raided to the north-east of Goudaumont and east of Vermelles, and repulsed a raid to the north of Roex.

The enemy's artillery is more active at Ypres and Lombartzyde.

FRENCH FRONT.

GERMAN LINES PENETRATED.

PARIS, August 14th.

A communiqué states:—Both artillery forces are active in Belgium.

Reconnaissance parties penetrated the German lines at different points to the north-west of Rheims.

Naval Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTERS' AGENCY.)

BRITISH DESTROYER MINED

LONDON, August 14th.

The Admiralty announces that a British destroyer was mined and sunk in the North Sea.

The Captain, two officers and forty-three men were saved.

Franco-Belgian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTERS' AGENCY.)

FIGHTING PLANES V. INFANTRY.

LONDON, August 14th.

Reuter's Correspondent at the French Headquarters says:—A remarkable instance of the facility with which the French fighting planes transform themselves into weapons of assault against infantry is furnished by the thirty-six hours' battle on August 10th and 11th and in the trenches north-west of St. Quentin.

A night attack by the *sturmtruppen* east of the village of Faye enabled the enemy to capture a front line on a width of six hundred yards. Counter-attacks finally expelled him on the evening of the 11th. During this fighting, the French fighting aeroplanes continually swept over the ground, flying very low and pouring a constant hail of bullets on the trenches.

An Army Order says:—During our counter-attacks, powerful squadrons of aeroplanes engaged the enemy, seconding the infantry with a courage which everybody admitted. The planes came back from the battle riddled with bullets. Since the battle, some of the aeroplanes have been engaging the enemy in co-operation with our infantry. This is no new thing, but probably they have never been engaged in land fighting in such numbers and in such a systematic manner on such a narrow front. Moreover, while fighting the Germans in the trenches, the aviators brilliantly discharged their ordinary duty, keeping the French Command informed of the progress of the battle.

GERMAN BODY ARMOUR.

LONDON, August 14th.

Reuter's Correspondent at the British Headquarters mentions that during a recent attack our men collected a considerable quantity of German body armour. Prisoners explain that owing to the heaviness of the armour and the swampiness of the ground, the men usually discard the armour. There have been cases where armoured Germans have disappeared in the mud.

The satisfactory feature of the recent fighting in Flanders is our counter-battery work. Owing to transport difficulties, the Germans collect large quantities of shells round batteries and our gunners constantly hit these dumps. Enemy gunner prisoners complain of the great increase of premature bursts in bore batteries, and say that many of the guns are the worse for wear. The correspondent adds that although this has not yet assumed great proportions, it is a vital matter and is not the least significant of the many signs that the Germans are beginning to show under the tremendous tax on their resources.

Russian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTERS' AGENCY.)

GEN. BRUSILOFF'S FAREWELL

PETROGRAD, August 15th.

General Brusiloff, in a farewell message, says:—"I should have liked to have remained with my soldiers. I am firmly convinced that Russia will recover from its sickness, for the happiness of the country and liberty."

RUMANIAN COUNTER-OFFENSIVE.

ENEMY ATTACKS REPULSED.

PETROGRAD, August 15th.

A wireless Russian official message says:—The Rumanian troops have continued the counter-offensive. They occupied the village of Slanic, and dislodged the enemy from heights south-westward of Grozesti. The offensive is developing.

The Russo-Rumanians repulsed attacks in the direction of Focsani, also in the region of Makiemni.

A wireless German official message says:—The enemy is beginning to yield in the mountain area of Roumania, between the Tropus, Putna and Sereth.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTERS' AGENCY.)

AUSTRALIAN STRIKES.

LONDON, August 15th.

Mr. Holman, Premier of New South Wales, has received a telegram from the wharf labourers and coalminers to the effect that they will not participate in the strike in New South Wales.

It is thought that the gas workers may come out. Many men remain loyal.

A limited transport service is being carried on.

The public are supporting the Government.

TEA SHORTAGE EXPECTED.

MORE TONNAGE WANTED.

LONDON, August 15th.

Only 7,854 packages of Indian tea were offered at the sales yesterday, confirming the view that a real shortage may be expected before the close of the year, unless further tonnage can be allocated for tea.

The demand for low grade tea has been revised, while the demand for first quality has slackened off.

LABOUR TROUBLES IN SPAIN.

DISORDERS VIGOROUSLY SUPPRESSED.

MADRID, August 14th.

The Minister of the Interior States that disorders occurred in various quarters of the town, which the troops vigorously repressed. The Military Commander has issued more stringent orders in consequence of the disregard of conciliatory measures.

It is reported from Bilbao that business is suspended and communications impeded. Disturbances were suppressed by military charges.

The Premier said:—We are face to face with an anarchist movement which makes no demands and entertains no political hopes from a change of Government.

SITUATION SERIOUS.

LONDON, August 15th.

News from Spain is scrappy, but there are indications that the situation is serious.

Latest telegrams speak of order being restored at Barcelona and Saragossa by stringent measures. Numerous arrests have been made.

The strikers blew up the railway near Bilbao, which resulted in a train falling over an embankment. The casualties are not mentioned.

Another place on the railway line was removed.

STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE.

CONFIDENCE IN MR. HENDERSON.

LONDON, August 15th.

The Labour Executive have selected Mr. Henderson to head the delegates at the Stockholm conference.

The Labour Executive have passed a vote of confidence in Mr. Henderson.

A telegram which was read from Stockholm said the conference would be consultative and not mandatory.

The Executive passed a resolution expressing the opinion that the Labourites should be represented at the forthcoming conference in order that the Party's opinions should not be misunderstood or misrepresented. They regretfully noted the Government announcement of its intention to refuse passports.

The foregoing resolution will be submitted for endorsement by the adjourned Labour Conference on the 21st.

THE POPE AND PEACE.

SOME COMMENTS.

WASHINGTON, August 15th.

It is unofficially stated that the Pope's proposals include suggestions for the reduction of armaments, and the abolition of all retaliatory economic conflicts. It is believed the Pope decried that the injuries to all belligerents were so great that no reparation was possible except the return of territory.

It is already evident that the proposals have fallen on deaf ears at Washington, where diplomatic circles regard them as inspired by Germany with the object of splitting the Allies in a discussion of war aims.

OPTIMISM OF THE VATICAN.

Rome, August 15th.

The Vatican is most optimistic over its new peace initiative. It is affirmed that the Pontiff has been assured that no Government will absolutely refuse to discuss the Note.

COLD RECEPTION.

LONDON, August 15th.

The papers give the coldest reception to the Pope's proposals, which are regarded as a result of the action of Austria, prompted by Germany, to endeavour to make the most of the advance in the East for bargaining.

It is felt that no course but rejection is open to the Allies, unless they are prepared to throw away their future.

Indications point to Germany, having failed to secure peace through the Socialists, now trying to do so through Catholics. It is emphasized that the Allies' terms are quite incompatible with the Vatican proposals, and there is not the slightest prospect that the Allies will abate them.

SOME OF THE PROPOSALS.

Rome, August 15th.

The Pope's proposals also suggest disarmament, and the formation of a Supreme Court of Arbitration for the solution of future conflicts between nations. Also, no annexations and no indemnities, except in particular cases, for instance, Belgium and some French and Serbian regions, which are more severely damaged.

He proposes the solution of Alsace-Lorraine, the Trentino and Trieste according to the aspirations of the peoples compatible with the general situation.

He proposes the restoration of the "ancient kingdom of Poland," Belgium, and the occupied French departments, in exchange for German Colonies, and finally, proposes liberty of the seas.

The Pope cites statements recently made by the leaders of belligerent Governments to prove that their views are not so irreconcilable as is believed.

ANOTHER AMERICAN LOAN TO ALLIES.

WASHINGTON, August 15th.

Congress will shortly authorize a new loan to the Allies, amounting to four billion dollars.

GERMANY UNEASY ABOUT POLAND.

LONDON, August 15th.

Reuter learns from a trustworthy source that the Germans are most uneasy about Poland, owing to the storm over the arrest of the Polish General Pilsudski, and failure of the attempts to recruit Poles, in connection with which it transpires that out of 6,000 Polish legionaries, less than 15 per cent. took the oath of allegiance.

MORE SAVAGERY IN BELGIUM

LONDON, August 15th.

The savagery of the Germans in Belgium is re-illustrated by the fate of the Belgian athlete, Vanentergem, who was shot at Oudenarde on a charge of espionage, after being dragged through the streets at the end of a long chain. The guards cruelly maltreated, and spat in the face of Vanentergem. The latter was most courageous, and did not complain.

RUSSIAN STATE CONFERENCE

PETROGRAD, August 15th.

Mr. Kerensky to-day revived the scheme for holding a great State Conference at Moscow, including all parties, classes and communities. It will be held at the small Kremlin from the 25th to the 27th. About 1,000 will participate.

Mr. Kerensky will open the conference with a comprehensive exposition of the situation.

TRAIN SMASH IN RUSSIA.

MANY CASUALTIES.

PETROGRAD, August 15th.

Sixty persons were killed, and 150 injured by a collision between a passenger and goods train midway between Petrograd and Moscow, owing to a pointsman's error.

EARLIER CABLES.

THE COLONIES AND THE WAR.

REFERENCE TO HONGKONG.

LONDON, August 14th.

On the introduction of the Colonial Office Vote, Mr. Walter Long said the fine part which the Dominions and Crown Colonies had played in the war required description. The part the Dominion troops had taken was well known to the world, and especially to our enemies. They had made their mark, whether they came from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Newfoundland or South Africa, and had shown themselves worthy of the best traditions of the British Army. Greater praise than that could not be bestowed on any soldier.

The Dominions had made great sacrifices in other directions. Many Dominions had suffered severely owing to the limitation of imports from the United Kingdom. He thought that many people failed to realise the greatness of the sacrifices imposed on the Dominions in that respect. They were bearing very heavy war expenditure and simultaneously were called upon to bear a very heavy burden owing to the interference with their trade. He paid a tribute to the magnificent patience and goodwill with which the Dominions had made this sacrifice. There was no foundation for any criticism that any part of the Empire had not done its full share in the war. He pointed out the great difficulties of the more remote parts, where frequently the natives were not fit for even the labour battalions. He was constantly receiving proofs of the admiration of the native races for Britain, their loyalty to the King and their devotion to British interests. He read, in connection with that, messages from British East Africa and the Indian Association at Zanzibar. Referring to gifts in kind, he said that although many were small, it was not the amount but the spirit of the gift that mattered.

Mr. Long emphasised that that loyalty and trust in Britain should be encouraged and justified by our future treatment of natives and our conduct of affairs affecting them closely—(Cheers). He mentioned that Conscription had been enforced in British East Africa, Uganda, Ceylon, the Straits Settlements and the Malay States, and was being considered elsewhere. Hongkong found it unnecessary, because every white man was already a Volunteer. The Crown Colonies had fully done their duty, and the speaker paid a warm tribute to the patience, resignation and goodwill with which they had also borne the hardships of the import restrictions.

Regarding German East Africa, Mr. Long said it was sometimes suggested that the campaign ought to be brought more rapidly to a conclusion. He had never realised until he had the assistance of those just returned from East Africa how stupendous were the physical difficulties, and in our pre-occupation on the Western Front we sometimes failed to give full credit to the gallant men, soldiers or natives. The last-named had performed most invaluable work as carriers. Mr. Long paid a tribute to these civil servants overseas who had been refused commissions and who were carrying on quietly what were often dull and dreary tasks.

Mr. Long regretted that Australia was not represented at the Imperial Conference. He rejoiced that a great step was taken by the direct representation of India. The overseas representatives frequently expressed to him the hope that the resolutions they had passed would not be pigeon-holed. He assured them that he would do his best to ensure that effect was given to the resolutions as early as possible. Referring to Imperial Preference, he said the question was not rendered less difficult by the war, for obviously any policy of Preference must be so framed as to meet the views of their Allies. The subject demanded continued consideration. The Prime Minister had appointed a Committee of Ministers and representatives of all departments concerned, with himself as President, with the object of reporting on the best method and the machinery by which effect could be given to the body of the resolutions. The task was not easy, but it ought to be undertaken and he was directed to say that the establishment of this committee in any case evidenced the Government's intention to take all steps they could to give effect to the resolutions of the Conference.

Mr. Walter Long concluded by saying: "I believe that the result of the Conference will strengthen our prosecution of the war and help us to take some steps after the war to reap the full advantage of the lessons we have learned to make the Empire stronger and more powerful than before the war. The discussions at the Conference were carried on in a spirit of toleration. Every overseas Minister showed high patriotism and an unselfish desire to promote the interests of the Empire. For example, regarding the islands of the Pacific and the African Colonies, nothing struck me so much as the determination of the representatives not to dogmatise or to attempt to lay down the law by saying that this or that must be done. What they really desired was that we should realise here how strongly their feeling is, but that it did not originate in a desire for increased territory or any question of that kind. Their desire was that after the war there should be a permanent peace for the world and security for the Empire. The knowledge we have of the past efforts of the Dominions and Crown Colonies, together with the experience we have gained at the Imperial War Conference, all show that in the supreme moment of our national history the whole Empire is one and is prepared to use its resources to make a combined effort to secure final and complete victory—(Cheers)."

Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck advocated the appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire into the resources of the Crown Colonies.

Mr. C. Toulmin considered their development more important than Imperial Preference.

Mr. D. MacMaster declared that there was strong opposition throughout the Empire against the retrocession of the German African Colonies and the Pacific Islands.

Mr. A. D. Steel Maitland, replying to the debate, said money, not a knowledge of the resources, was what was required for the development of the Crown Colonies. He referred to the difficulty at present of obtaining expert members of the proposed Imperial Development Board and dwelt upon the extraordinary way in which the resources of the Empire had been organised for war service. Henceforth it would be possible to develop these resources enormously for peace or war.

THE POPE APPEALS FOR PEACE.

LONDON, August 14th.

Reuter's Correspondent at Rome says His Holiness the Pope has addressed a Note to the belligerents and neutrals, again appealing for peace, and inviting the belligerents to state concrete peace terms in order to facilitate a preliminary understanding.

THE IRISH PROBLEM.

LONDON, August 14th.

The Press Bureau says the Grand Committee has made arrangements for the Irish Convention on the 21st instant to discuss schemes of Government of the Dominion type.

RUSSIA'S RESOLVE

PETROGRAD, August 14th.

M. Kerensky, replying to King George's message, has telegraphed:—"On behalf of the Provisional Government and the Russian people, I express to your Majesty their gratitude for your message of 1001. will on the threshold of the fourth year of war. I am certain that the Russian people will find the necessary strength to surmount the grave trials of the present time and will conduct the war to an end worthy of the terrible sacrifices made by every nation struggling for right against might."

THE LABOUR CONTROVERSY

MR. HENDERSON'S WEAK EXPLANATION.

LONDON, August 14th.

The general feeling is that Mr. Henderson's speech was involved and unconvincing, although no slur is cast upon his motives.

A Radical Lobby correspondent says that the majority of the members of the House of Commons considers that he dealt too much with the points in detail.

The opinion of the House is undoubtedly in favour of Mr. Lloyd George.

Mr. Henderson's statement that he did not receive Mr. Kerensky's telegram until after the Conference is somewhat obscure, as other passages clearly show that he knew of the change of attitude of the Russian Government. However, this point is regarded as a misunderstanding and is in no wise changing the main contentions.

Mr. Will Thorne, M.P., in an interview with the *Daily Chronicle*, expresses the opinion that Mr. Henderson's explanation is weaker than most people expected.

The *Daily Mail*, like other papers, is convinced that British Labourites are not affected by the existing personal controversies but will continue to devote their whole power to the single end of victory.

WILL LABOUR REVERSE ITS DECISION?

The Executive of the Labour Party met in the House of Commons last night, the attendance including Mr. Henderson. It was agreed to meet again this morning to consider the circumstances of the resignation.

This was followed by a joint meeting of the Executive of Labour.

It is reported that some Trade Unions are considering moving amendments at the Conference to be held on August 21st, suggesting a reversal of last Friday's decision. It is noteworthy, in this connection, that the Secretary of the Brassworkers Society has made the following statement:—"We acted on Mr. Henderson's advice, because we considered that he had full information regarding Russia. Otherwise, the decision would have been entirely different."

GREAT BRITAIN'S TRADE

LONDON, August 14th.

The trade returns for the past month show that the increase in exports totals £2,510,878 compared with July last year, while the imports have increased by £13,449,897.

“MUDDLED PEACE TALK.” **THE TRUE AIMS OF HUN** **SOCIALISTS.**

[BY D. THOMAS CURTIN.]

It is easy to become muddled in a steady stream of vague peace talk. Friends may forget the great factors in the war and begin to argue with one another over details.

Those who look to the German Social Democrats to act as a lever to bring about a peace acceptable to the Allies should keep two points in mind. In the first place, these men, who entered the war in a spirit of unity and conquest, must undergo a complete change of opinion from that which they cherished when they believed that Germany was winning hands down. Secondly, they must then force their new opinion upon the majority of their countrymen. Inasmuch as the first stage has not been reached it is useless to discuss the second.

The promises given since early in the war in Allied and neutral countries to Bismarck and a few kindred spirits who are violently at odds with their Government, and would try to right a wrong even to the material detriment of their own country, has led to a false idea of German Social Democracy in general.

I have talked earnestly with a large number of Reichstag Social Democrats, both of the Majority and of Minority, and almost without exception I found them intensely practical men who combined business ability with a deep knowledge of economics, and who are above all patriotic, law-respecting citizens. Though some of them deeply regret that their Government has got Germany into such a mess—or could not keep Germany out of such a mess, as they prefer to put it—they are not going to make matters worse by internal dissensions which would jeopardise their own and their country's prosperity. In Great Britain and America many of them would be Liberals and a few Conservatives, but in Germany, with its social caste of parties, they are forced to become Social Democrats in order to gratify their political ambitions.

While encouraging the Russians to talk platitudes and dream they look realities in the face. I have heard some of them talk of the Russian as a good-natured, simple fellow who would benefit by the German development of his land. I found them quite in agreement with the statement made to me in an interview by the able Pan-German great industrialist member of the Reichstag, Dr. Strösemann, that “no matter what the outcome of the war Russia cannot emancipate herself from German industrial influence.”

“JUST” TO ENEMIES. The German Social Democrats would oppose paying indemnities as vigorously as the rest of the Germans. Even such an extreme member of the Minority as the hater of militarism, who suggested that I should go to Potsdam to see the return of the Prussian Guard, gave me the following views:—“We wish to be just to our enemies, and we do not wish any of their territory. But we must safeguard the future of Germany. In all wars throughout history the winner has recouped financially either through direct indemnity or through commercial expansion as a result of the war. I believe that neither side should pay the other in this war. A drawn war, so far as the west is concerned, means a great burden on all the belligerents for many years.”

The countries whose people will make the greatest sacrifices to throw off this burden as soon as possible will be triumphant in the peaceful conquests of the markets of the world. Our people are more loyal to the idea of the State and will bear more patiently such sacrifices than the individualistic English, to whom a drawn war will mean a long and disastrous period of unrest. We are certain of the industrial control of the Near East. We should not interfere with the political independence of the Near Eastern countries, but we recognise that it is to their advantage as well as our own that they be directed by a strong policy which will enable German science to develop this region so richly endowed by nature.”

German politicians of all parties are keeping international politics clearly in mind. When I asked Dr. Südekum, Social Democratic member of the Reichstag for Nuremberg, Bavaria, whether he believed that if the wisdom and spirit of Bismarck could have continued Germany would have heaped up such a coalition against her, he made a gesture of despair. “What was Bismarck's policy?” he asked. “Could anybody more firmly believe than Bismarck that the first essential to German greatness is a strong Austria-Hungary? How could he have acted differently from our present leaders, who, like all far-seeing Germans, realise that the first step to weaken Austria-Hungary is to weaken Austria-Hungary? Therefore when Russia took this step we did what the great Chancellor himself must have done—we stood in arms with our ally. We did this not merely because of our pledge, but because nothing could be clearer than that it is almost as important for us to preserve our ally as to keep the soil of our beloved Fatherland free of the invader.”

One of the most pressing problems to be settled by the war is that of Alsace-Lorraine. I have never discussed the matter with any German, in politics or out, who failed to ridicule the very suggestion that these provinces shall be given up. The Social Democrats like the rest of the Germans, understand the importance of iron ore, coal, and potash to industrial and commercial prosperity. Alsace-Lorraine is material prosperity not mere sentiment to them. And it is well to recognise that no patched-up peace, nothing but the complete defeat of Germany, will restore this land to France.

Will nothing, then, bring about revolutionary changes in Germany? Possibly. The Reichstag has changed from a body in which no dissenting voice could be

DREAMERS IN PETROGRAD. **TRUE MEANING OF THE** **REVOLUTION.**

[BY A. M. THOMPSON, PETROGRAD.]

After numerous interviews and conversations—with people of nearly every one of the multitudinous parties in this divided State—two conclusions, needful to an understanding of the situation in general and of the call to Stockholm in particular, have clearly emerged to my otherwise perplexed view.

The first is that the Russian Revolution was essentially not only against the Czar but also against the war.

The second is that the Russian conveners of the Stockholm Conference design it not only to restore peace but also and chiefly as an abstract propagandist demonstration against the capitalist conditions which they regard as the inevitable cause of all wars.

They admit no distinction between this war and any other; none between the sword-rattling Kaiser and the pacifist President Wilson; apparently none between the aggressors and the victims.

They do not propose to discuss the rights or wrongs of the present conflict; not to administer justice, nor to compensate the sufferers; nor to restrain the wrong-doers. They merely suggest the establishment of universal and everlasting peace and brotherhood on the principle that the man who has been smitten on one cheek should smile and ask for more.

The Cronstadt Council of Workmen and Soldiers' Delegates, protesting against Grimm's expulsion, declares that Thomas, Vandervelde, and Plekhanoff are enemies and traitors to international Socialism.

Why? Merely because they urge the continuance of war to the destruction of its cause.

Rozinoff, the secretary of the Workmen's Council's International Committee and chief of the delegates proceeding to Stockholm, expresses himself less personally, but his real meaning is not greatly different.

INTOXICATED WITH LIBERTY. “We want nobody at the conference,” he told West, of the Fabian Society, “who does not put Socialism before nationality, who does not absolutely renounce imperialism and aggression and adhere strictly to the sacred three-headed formula of no annexations, no indemnities, and power to all peoples to dispose of their destinies.”

He disapproves of the Dutch-Scandinavian committee because their hearts are not pure enough for Russian perfectibility.

“The men we want at the conference,” he added, “are men who don't use empty words but will, if necessary, employ armed strength against their capitalist Governments.”

When West objected that it might be difficult to find such delegates among the true representatives of the French, British and Belgian workers and still more difficult among the representatives of German Social Democracy, Rozinoff solemnly concluded, “In that case the Russian democracy must find other means of giving the world its message.”

That is the spirit in which the Russian delegates start on their mission. Regard less of the anarchy threatening their newly won freedom at home, they go forth as the apostles of a childlike faith to impose their ideals upon the benighted Western democracies. Intoxicated with liberty, as Vandervelde told them on the eve of his departure, they regard themselves as the monopolists of light, providentially ordained to dispel the darkness of France, Belgium, Great Britain, and America with the torch of their sublime ideals and to convert this world of tears, suffering, and death to the happy millennium of universal peace and brotherly love.

IDEALS AND FANATICS.

That is the plain truth of the situation which the less-exalted delegates from the hard-workaday world of ravaged Belgium and France and outraged Britain and America must prepare to face at Stockholm. They will have to discuss peace, not with statesmen but with idealists and fanatics who are determined to put the whole world right, including not only Alsace and Lorraine, but also, particularly, Ireland.

The craft Germans will not be slow to profit by an opportunity so unexpectedly presented. They will gleefully subscribe to doctrines which offer so cheap an escape from the consequences of the crimes which they allowed and encouraged their rulers to commit.—Daily Mail.

heard against the war to a body 4 per cent. of whose members are now opposed to William Hohenzollern and Company. I have personally seen Germany change from a nation in which practically everybody favoured the war to a nation in which about 90 per cent. of the people prefer a Government more in conformity with Western ideas.

But the great middle class, have not yet begun to be converted. Who will convert them? Certainly not the submissive type of Reichstag Social Democrat, who jumped to his feet one sweltering summer day in 1916 and shut all the windows when in reply to his question as to why the Americans wrongly looked upon the peaceful Kaiser as a War Lord, I quietly suggested that the Kaiser be some time photographed in some non-military apparel.

There will be no revolution through the medium of a moral change from within as regards the deep-rooted questions of the war. The change will come if at all when the majority of Germans become convinced that the game is not and begin to ask their chiefs embarrassing questions. Only outside arguments will bring about such a condition, and the greatest of these is shells.

MESOPOTAMIA. **WILL ANYBODY BE PUNISHED?**

[BY LOVAT FRASER.]

The truth about the Mesopotamia Expedition is out at last, and it will make the country aflame with indignation. No more deplorable story of mismanagement and of errors of high policy can be found in our history, with the solitary exception of the Dardanelles failure.

The public have long wanted to know who was responsible for the miserable blunders in Mesopotamia. The report of the Commission shows, clearly, that the ultimate responsibility is dual. It rests on the hand upon Mr. Asquith and the First Coalition Cabinet, and on the other hand upon the heads of the Indian Administration. Probably attempts will be made by party hacks to save the reputations of home politicians by thrusting the blame exclusively upon the Indian authorities. As I said long ago, that cock will not fight.

The tragedies of Kut and of the costly and unsuccessful attempts to relieve the beleaguered garrison were the direct consequence of the Dardanelles fiasco. Consider the facts. In the summer of 1915 General Townshend had advanced far up the Tigris and gained a victory at Kut, afterwards occupying the town. On October 3rd Sir John Nixon, who was in chief command in Mesopotamia, took the extraordinary course of telegraphing direct to Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for India, thus:—“I consider I am strong enough to open road to Baghdad, and with this intention I propose to concentrate at Asidien.” Mr. Chamberlain, with admirable judgment, telegraphed on October 4th forbidding Sir John Nixon to advance any farther; but afterwards, on that day the War Committee of the Cabinet met, and saw Sir John Nixon's foolish boast.

The Cabinet knew that ruin had overtaken them at the Dardanelles, and that withdrawal was inevitable. They feared the wrath which would arise when the nation discovered the truth. Sir John Nixon's message tempted them, and at that fateful meeting they tentatively decided to run the grave risk of pushing on to Baghdad in the hope of gaining a hope of victory which would obscure the defeat of Gallipoli. Mr. Asquith was audacious enough to say in the House of Commons on July 18th, 1916, that in Mesopotamia “from first to last political have never been allowed to override military considerations.” The Commission flatly and categorically contradicted him, but even without their verdict the published documents are sufficient proof. The official telegram to India said: “We are therefore in great need of striking success in the East.” For what reason? Not to save Gallipoli, the abandonment of which was then certain, but to save the Government.

We all know what Mr. Asquith did subsequently. He went down to the House of Commons on November 2nd, and stated over the Dardanelles business, for which he admitted “nobody is more responsible than I.” Then he turned joyously to Mesopotamia, announced that Sir John Nixon's force was “within measurable distance of Baghdad,” and added, “I do not think that in the whole course of the war there has been a series of operations more carefully contrived, more brilliantly conducted, and with a better prospect of final success.” Retribution swiftly followed this mad attempt to take Baghdad and defeat a Turkish army over 500 miles from the sea with a force of only 11,000 weary soldiers backed by 18 field guns and a horse battery. The Commission point out that it resulted in the ultimate surrender of more than a division of our finest fighting troops, while the ineffective attempts to relieve Kut cost 25,000 casualties.

All our troubles and misfortunes in Mesopotamia flowed from the unwarrantable decision of the Cabinet to attempt for political reasons the capture of Baghdad by a rush with a weak and unsupported force. The only thing which can be said in excuse of Mr. Asquith and his colleagues is that they were very badly advised by their military experts.

The responsibility of the Indian authorities is of another kind, but it is equally blame-worthy. Collectively, the Government of India tacitly abdicated their functions, and the real control was vested in the Viceroy (Lord Hardinge) and the Commander-in-Chief (Sir Beauchamp Duff). Their fundamental error was that, after telegraphing home objections which were not strenuous enough, they assented to the advance to Baghdad when they knew the dangers. Though they were not responsible for policy, they were directly responsible for most of the shocking mismanagement and neglect which the report reveals. Lord Hardinge seems to have repaid blind faith in General Duff until the cumulative reports of the sufferings of the wounded carried conviction to his mind and impelled him to take a strong line with the Commander-in-Chief. For General Duff there appears to be no excuse whatever.

General Duff shared with Lord Kitchener the authorship of the enormous and over-centralised scheme of military control in India, which grabbed all power for the Commander-in-Chief and under the first test of war wrecked the Indian military machine. It was in protest against that scheme that Lord Curzon resigned the Viceroyalty twelve years ago. I heard Lord Curzon's words the night before he quitted India for ever. He said that the principles for which he had fought had not vanished, though they had momentarily disappeared. “They will reappear,” he declared, “and that before very long.” They have indeed. Rarely has a statesman been so overwhelmingly vindicated in his own lifetime. The Commission damns the Kitchener scheme of control root and branch and General Monro is already in India with a free hand to build a new structure out of the ruins.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

THE KING WITH HIS FLEET. **INVESTITURE AT SEA.**

What is believed to be the first investiture held at sea by the Sovereign since that which followed the victory of June 1st, 1794, took place during the King's recent visit to the Grand Fleet, when this Majesty invested with their decorations those who had received honours for their services in the Battle of Jutland. On the quarter-deck, just under the after turret gun muzzles, was placed a crimson dais for the King. The arrangements were just complete, when the weather, which had been perfectly fine during church, broke again, with flashes and crashes, and as the rain came down in torrents an adjournment had to be made to the “half-deck.”

Here, when all the preparations had been made anew and a table with the decorations had been set out, surrounded by officers of his Navy with a guard of honour of marines, the King took his position. First came Sir David Beatty, who received the G.C.B. He uncovered, bent his head, the King placed the ribbon over his shoulder, and then the King, looking straight in the face, shook hands with him. He replaced his cap at the well-known jaunty angle over his right eye, saluted, and stepped aside. As he did so Rear-Admiral Evan Thomas moved up to the King to receive the K.C.B., which he so gloriously won by his gallant and successful conduct, in command of the 5th Battle Squadron at the Battle of Jutland.

THE ADMIRAL'S SWORD. Now occurred a very striking little incident (says The Daily Mail's special correspondent). Sir David Beatty had spoken for a minute with the King and drew his sword. By his own special wish, Sir David's sword was to be used to confer knighthood on the officer who had seconded him with such resolution in that fierce struggle with the German battle-cruisers and battle fleet before our battle-ships arrived. The King took the Commander-in-Chief's sword, he tapped Sir Hugh Evan Thomas lightly on each shoulder with the flat blade, shook hands with him, looked at him fixedly for an instant or two, and received his salute.

Then came Admirals Sir C. Madden and Sir F. C. D. Sturdee, and many others. Among them was one of the most famous of our submarine officers, Commander Noel F. Laurence, who did such splendid work in the Baltic, and last year in the North Sea accomplished the astounding feat of putting two torpedoes into the German Dreadnought *Grosser Kurfürst* and one into the *Thuringen*. Unbeknown to these ships, though badly damaged, contrived to totter back into port, and Commander Laurence had an exceedingly warm two hours from the enemy, who hunted him for that period with depth charges (explosives dropped where his submarine was supposed to be) and other horrors, luckily without success.

With Gunner J. W. A. Chubb, who distinguished himself by his coolness and courage in the *Warpite* at Jutland, the King talked for a minute or two. Last came Midshipman T. E. H. Grove, of the R.N.R.

TALENT TO FISHERMEN. After the investiture the King went on board a deep-sea trawler, one of a squadron of 14 engaged in mine-sweeping for the Grand Fleet. The vessel thus honoured was a craft of about 300 tons displacement, which before the war fished from Swansea, selling her catches in Portugal. She was manned by a very smart crew of fishermen in the uniform of the Royal Naval Reserve (Trawler Division) and was commanded by Lieutenant Commander Benson. The King, to show his warm appreciation of the magnificent work done by the men of the merchant service and fishing fleet, talked to each of the crew, thanked them for their conduct, and spoke some time with them, asking them where they had fished and telling them how pleased he was to have seen them.

The King before lunch inspected one of the largest and latest submarines. This is a veritable grand hotel among submarines—full of machinery as they all are, but containing quite spacious cabins, which are as commodious as many in surface ships, a bath-room, and a lavatory for use under water.

Although General Duff was the slave of the system he had helped to create, his faults of omission were still extraordinary. He tried to run the war in Mesopotamia from a Himalayan hill-top, remained a recluse in his office, and never visited the base at Bombay or the front on the Tigris. He kept everything in his own hands, and the consequent delays were innumerable. He never grasped the grave dangers of river transport, and made no effective attempt to remedy them. He turned a deaf ear to the cloud of reports of the sufferings of the wounded, after Ctesiphon, and never investigated until it was too late the gross inefficiency of the Indian medical arrangements.

The public in Great Britain and in India will assuredly expect the Home Government to take disciplinary measures against the various prominent officers who are comprehensively condemned in this astonishing report. Sir John Nixon's conduct in disregarding the numerous warnings respectfully addressed to him by General Townshend and others was grievous. Sir William Babbie, who is most severely criticised for starving the medical equipment of the expedition, occupies to-day one of the highest military medical posts in this country. Sir Edmund Barrow, who is singled out by the Commission as the originator of the expedition and as the officer in this country chiefly responsible for advising the advance to Baghdad, has actually been rewarded with the post of military member of the Secretary of State's Council. Others in the wrong have been decorated or promoted.

A word of warning must be added in conclusion. In spite of General Maude's successful advance this year, we are not yet out of the wood in Mesopotamia. The passivity of the Russian front in Armenia, the Caucasus, and the Balkans, indeed, if the Turks do not come down, horse, foot, and artillery upon Baghdad in the autumn.—Daily Mail.

CURRIE. **THE CANADIAN ARMY'S NEW** **CHIEF.**

[BY F. A. MCKENZIE.]

Three years ago Sir Arthur Currie was a real estate broker in Victoria, B.C. To-day—still in the early forties—he succeeds to the command of a British Army Corps. Everyone who knows his work is agreed that he has earned his rapid promotion. For he is a first-class fighting man, a great organiser, and a general who, in the language of the West, “delivers the goods.”

The promotion of a “civilian-soldier,” if I may coin the word, to an army corps command is at sign of the times. Not so very long ago the rank of general of division was thought to be a prerogative of the professional soldier—the man who had devoted his life from early manhood to the study of war. The commander of an army corps is director of one of the most complex organisations in the world. His range of duty is in the highest degree technical. On his organising ability ultimately depends the full use of the great artillery, the numerous brigades of infantry, the multiple machinery of transport. He controls a department of intelligence whose completeness would have made Napoleon wonder, of a strength in heavy guns that Oyama or Kitchener never had. There is full confidence among all who know his work that Currie with the Canadians, like Smuts with the South Africans, will prove the right man for his great post. This confidence is greatest of all among the Canadian soldiers of all ranks who now serve under him. I speak with assurance on that point, for I have discussed their new general with them in dug-out and trenches, in rest camps and restaurants. Everywhere I found only one opinion—“Give us Currie.”

Here is a big man, a giant physically, with big, clean-shaven face. The eyes are laughing eyes, and his face has the freshness and clearness of youth. A quiet man he is, neither fussy nor a blusterer, genial, a man to make friends and to keep them. That is one's first impression. But let the moment arise and the face soon takes a stern mould. For the ultimate impression of the man is one of strength. A man with a “punch,” a soldier who “gets there,” but gets there all the time.

Arthur Currie is an Ontario man. He settled in Victoria first as a schoolmaster, made a record in life insurance, even for the West, and developed into real estate business.

SECRET OF SUCCESS. In the days before the war the average Canadian did not take soldiering seriously—Currie did. He gave the best of himself to the efficiency of his Militia, and that at a time when most men gave the possibility of serious war scarcely a thought.

Then came the great days of August, 1914. Canada sprang to arms. In the second battle of Ypres, where Canada saved the entire British line Currie proved himself a practical soldier. When General Alderson was promoted from the First Canadian Division to the command of the Canadian Corps, Currie succeeded him as Major-General. That was in September, 1915. Here the Western man had his opportunity and made full use of it.

What is General Currie's secret as a soldier? First comes the quality of the man himself. He is a big magnetic personality. His men serve him to the end because they love and admire him. His methods centre around four points—the elaborate organisation of intelligence; the complete co-ordination of all arms; the development to its utmost point of the platoon system; and the cultivation of responsibility in the individual soldier.

Every part of his unit moves on a great occasion like a section of a big machine. Guns, infantry, aircraft work together to the second. He has brought the platoon system to perfection.

Each platoon is a complete unit in itself, taught to act by itself and with all weapons at its command to do everything necessary. And he trusts the man in the ranks. The private soldier is told fully and frankly what he is to do when a great move is on, and why he is to do it. He is shown maps and plans and photographs, and feels that he is taken into the confidence of his general.

As Commander of the First Canadian Division General Currie has undertaken some of the most arduous enterprises of the war. The brigades under him accomplished more than once the seemingly impossible.—Daily Mail.

A BOY'S CHANCE. **TEST CASE FOR THE NAVY.**

A boy charged with theft in the Juvenile Court at the London Guildhall recently said he would like to go into the Navy.

Mr. Phillips (prosecution officer): A boy will not be accepted for the Navy unless he has a good character.

Sir David Barnard: Well, everyone has a good character until he has been convicted.

Mr. Phillips: He must have a good character from his last employer.

Sir David: I don't want to spoil this boy's future. There are a great many people walking about the City who no doubt ought to be in prison. But they have not been convicted and therefore are “honest.” He has fallen—who has not?

In every other respect he would perhaps be a credit to himself and to the Service.

Mr. Phillips: But the question will be put to the last employer.

Sir David: And my point is that everyone in the world—unless he has been legally convicted—is honest. Simply to be charged is nothing against one's character. I will give you a letter to the First Lord of the Admiralty and bring the matter to an issue.

Mr. Savill (chief clerk): There's just one difficulty: he has pleaded guilty.

Sir David: He will withdraw his plea. That clears that up. In the meantime he will go to the Remand Home.

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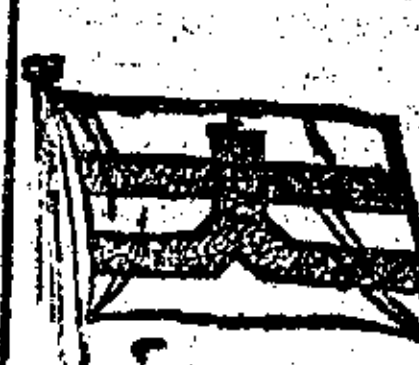
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